



Valero Refinery Aruba is hiring!

The Promenade Restaurant in San Nicholas was the site for hundreds of island residents to take advantage of the opportunity to get a job at the Valero Refinery this past Thursday and Friday. David Smith, Community and Government Affairs Director for Valero stated they expected to take applications and interview over 400 candidates by the time the job fair was done.

In another month, Valero plans to close down for a "turnover," an event that takes place every four years. During this time they will completely clean all the equipment and refurbish a large portion of the refinery, to achieve optimal efficiency. This massive clean-up will take thirty-two days of intensive, round the clock work, and requires approximately 3300 workers to accomplish. The refinery already has a staff of over 680, and 500 contractors working there on a daily basis. Valero is bringing in another 1500 outside workers for the one-month period, who will leave when the job is done, and they are looking to hire an additional 100 from the island population.

"We are actually looking for people with NO skills," reports David Smith, "we will train them initially in safety training, fire watch and other basics. Once the job is done, we will have an idea of where there talents are, and we will then put them thoroughly in skills for which they show an aptitude. They will then be integrated into the permanent work force."

Mr. Smith also professed that it is important to the refinery to give the new employees a craft, "so they can be full-time permanent contract employees. When the island people are trained and working, we can reduce our foreign labor and send them elsewhere. It is our preference and our goal to have native labor, is much more cost effective, and it is the right thing to do." He also reports that all those that did apply should have their answer by November 11, 2005, and that work will begin almost immediately.